

Message Text

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ACTION EA-04

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 L-03 SS-15 PER-05 PM-09 M-03 A-01

IGA-02 RSR-01 RSC-01 INR-10 /055 W

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R 110650 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4361

405 CSG 110650 Z

INFO CSAF

CINCPAC

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13 AF

UNCLAS MANILA 4072

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, RP

SUBJECT: GOP REQUEST TO ALLOW DIPLOMATIC OFFICER TO TESTIFY

REF: 2 FAM 221.5

1. EMBASSY BECAME AWARE THAT THE SIGNATURES OF STEPHEN GIBSON, COMMERCIAL ATTACHE, AND COL. HENRY C. GORDON, WING COMMANDER, CLARK AIR BASE, WERE BEING FORGED ON CERTAIN DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE SALE OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT. THE DOCUMENTS WERE APPARENTLY BEING USED TO FRAUDULENTLY OBTAIN MONEY AND/ OR CREDIT. THE EMBASSY BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE BROUGHT THIS MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GOP.

2. PHIL DEPT OF JUSTICE CONTACTED EMBASSY AND STATED THAT THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO OPEN FULL INVESTIGATION INTO MATTER BUT REQUESTED ASSURANCES THAT ONCE SUSPECT WAS APPREHENDED THAT ABOVE OFFICERS WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE BY THE USG TO TESTIFY AS TO THE FORGED SIGNATURES. THEY STATED THAT THEY SAW NO PURPOSE IN INVESTIGATING SUCH MATTER IF, IN THE END, THEY WOULD BE UNABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY PROSECUTE THE SUSPECT BECAUSE OF LACK OF ADMISSIBLE EVIDENCE AS TO THE FORGED NATURE OF THE SIGNATURES.

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3. THEREFORE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFERENCE, REQUEST DEPT GRANT AUTHORITY FOR STEPHEN GIBSON, WHO HOLDS DIPLOMATIC STATUS, TO TESTIFY IN COURT WHEN THAT BECOMES NECESSARY. IF AUTHORITY IS GRANTED HE WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO LIMIT HIS TESTIMONY TO THE QUESTION OF FORGERY OF HIS SIGNATURE.

4. FOR 405 CSG: REQUEST THAT APPROPRIATE AIR FORCE AUTHORITIES EVALUATE REQUEST TO HAVE COL. GORDON TESTIFY AS REFLECTED ABOVE AND NOTIFY EMBASSY OF DETERMINATION. UNDER MBA, COL. GORDON COULD BE SUBJECT TO SUBPOENA, BUT PHILS WOULD PREFER ASSURANCE OF VOLUNTARY COOPERATION. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THEY WILL PROCEED OTHERWISE.

5. PHILS ARE WITHHOLDING COMMENCEMENT OF INVESTIGATION UNTIL ASSURED OF AVAILABILITY OF ABOVE WITNESSES, SO APPRECIATE REPLY ASAP. BYROADE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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SECSTATE WASHDC

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